

Floral Street Elementary School

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www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral

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FALCON FLYER

January 17, 2016

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/>

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Dear Floral Families,

In our classroom visits last week, we noticed many students across the grade levels working on opinion pieces during their writing or Daily Five time. As you likely know, the genre of opinion writing is a core component of the district's writing curriculum. Each trimester, teachers instruct a writing unit on each of the four writing genres- opinion, narrative, informative, and poetry. With opinion writing, students learn to use a plan page (called the Opinion Pillar) to organize their writing ideas and note the reasons and specific details/examples to support their opinion. They also plan out their introduction and conclusion on their pillar before drafting the written piece. You can view an example of a third grade opinion piece, including the Opinion Pillar, by clicking on the attachment at the bottom of this flyer.

It's always interesting to observe students engage in opinion writing. They love being able to take a stance on an issue and "argue" their reasons for their opinion. Here are a couple of topics we observed students thinking, researching, and writing about in their classrooms this week:

One third grade class was deeply engaged in constructing strong reasons and specific examples to justify whether the best pet to have is a dog or a cat. They viewed short video clips to gather evidence to support their opinions- as you can imagine, this is a topic for which students felt pretty strongly in favor of one pet over another (especially for those who are dog or cat owners).

A fourth grade class engaged in a lively debate about another issue in which they are personally invested – homework. In a visit to a fourth grade classroom this week, we observed students researching and planning their opinion about this question: *Should students have homework over school vacations?* Using an anchor text from Time magazine and their own personal experiences, students were highly engaged in arguing for or against vacation homework. Surprisingly, there was a good-sized group of students on the pro-homework side!

You can support your child with developing their voice in opinion writing by seizing opportunities as they arise to have some healthy debate about an issue that is of interest to your child or to your family. Have your child cite the reasons for his/her opinion and provide specific examples or details that make those reasons strong ones. Not only will you be helping your child with developing his/her skills in this writing genre, but you're sure to have some lively discussions...especially if your opinion differs from your child's opinion. Let the debates begin!

As a reminder, there is **no school tomorrow- Monday, January 18**, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. We can't wait for the 4th grade chorus concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday- hope to see you there!

Have a wonderful week ahead.

~Lisa & Tiffany

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Notes from Previous Falcon Flyers:

For 4th Grade Families: Opportunity to Join the 4th Grade Orchestra

Please read the attachment at the bottom of this flyer to learn more about an opportunity for fourth grade students that presently play a string instrument to join the district's 4th Grade Orchestra.

From the PTO - Young Rembrandts Drawing Classes Starting on January 26

A new session of Young Rembrandts will be beginning on Jan 26. This session will run every Tuesday until March 22. There are a number of "off days" which correspond with early release days; all the details can be found on the attached flyer below. As always, we have all new lessons, so this is a great time to continue the classes or to join us for the first time. Class fills

quickly and is limited to the first 60 students: if you are interested in signing up enroll today -either online at www.youngrembrandts.com or bring the registration form to the school office with payment attached. Call Young Rembrandts directly with any questions: (508) 393-8033.

Invitation to Third Grade Students from Mr. Wilson, FSS Art Teacher

We're off to the museum in third grade!

This year, different grade levels are having a great time visiting the Worcester Art Museum with Mr. Wilson on the free Saturdays that the museum offers. The free Saturdays are the first Saturdays of every month. We call these Muse-ambls.

This completely optional and voluntary event will be held on **Saturday, February 6th from 10:00AM to 11:00AM**. All third graders, accompanied by a parent, are welcome to tour the museum with Mr. Wilson. The third grade muse-amble will be focused on the Early American Portrait collection and the early American furniture collection. This is a great connection to their history studies at school. In preparation to the Muse-amble, students will study a time-line that show the dates that the early American artists worked in Boston and the dates that the styles of furniture changed during this period. Everyone is welcome to join us, as this is a free event and totally elective.

Board Meeting & Elections for 2017-2017 School Year – Tuesday, January 19th at 9:15am in the Cafeteria

Please join us on **Tuesday, January 19th at 9:15am** for our next

board meeting and general elections for the 2016-2017 school year. We are holding early elections this year as we have 5 long-serving board members who are leaving Floral at the end of the year and we want to allow the folks taking on leadership roles for next year plenty of time to begin leading the planning work and work with the existing leaders for a smooth transition. Positions open include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Fundraising/projects. If you would like to discuss the roles and responsibilities with the existing office holders prior to the meeting or are interested in serving but unable to attend the meeting, please email PTO President Hannah Kane at hkanemcpc@gmail.com. We will also discuss the remaining fundraisers and events of the year when we meet.

SHS Class of 2019 Magic Show

The Class Of 2019 is teaming together with Mr. Magic to have a fun, family-friendly **magic show!** On **January 31 at 2 o'clock in the Shrewsbury High School Auditorium** join us for raffles, food, games, crafts, and magic led by students of the class of 2019. Go through the main entrance of the high school, where tickets will be sold at the door. **The admission is \$7 per person.** This is our only fundraiser of the year so we need as much participation as possible (and don't forget to spread the word!). **The snow date is March 13.** See you there!

The Elementary Lunch Menu and Directions for purchasing pre-paid lunch tickets can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/foodsvc/elementarylunchmenu.cfm>

Important Upcoming Dates:

***New dates added this week appear in bold print**

January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / No School for Students & Staff
January 19	Chorus Concert (Goulding, Morgan, Manning) / 6:30pm at Floral
January 19	Chorus Concert (Edgren, Ralys, Spangenberg) / 7:30pm at Floral
January 20	Chorus Concert (Leifer, Powell, Ross) / 6:30pm at Floral
January 26	FSS School Council Meeting / 5:15pm
February 2	Early Release Day for Students (dismissal begins at 12:15pm) / Professional Development for Staff in the PM
February 5	School Meeting / Grades 3 & 4 (All School Read- <i>What Does it Mean to be Kind?</i> By Rana DiOrio)
February 12	School Meeting / Grades 1 & 2 (All School Read- <i>What Does it Mean to be Kind?</i>)
February 15-19	School Vacation Week / No School
February 23	FSS School Council Meeting / 5:15pm
February 24	Local Dentist, Dr. Feldman, visits first grade classes

Important Contact Information:

Office (508) 841-8720

Nurses, Phone (508) 841-8729

Nurses, FAX (508) 841-1545

Extended Day (508) 841-8743

AA Transportation (508) 753-6322 (Please call the school first with bus-related issues)

The full district school calendar is available on the district homepage at: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>

[gr3 opinion writing.pdf](#)

[4th grade orchestra.pdf](#)

[YR.Jan-March2016.pdf](#)